

Spring 2010

# Horizons Spring 2010

Nova Southeastern University

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The background of the cover is a deep blue underwater scene. On the left, a diver in a black wetsuit and mask is visible, swimming towards the right. On the right, a vibrant yellow and black striped angelfish swims near a large, textured coral reef. The title 'HORIZONS' is written in large, bold, yellow serif capital letters across the top. Below it, 'NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY' is written in smaller, white, sans-serif capital letters. In the top right corner, 'SPRING 2010' is written in small, white, sans-serif capital letters.

# HORIZONS

NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY

SPRING 2010

## **Diving into Research**

The World's Oceans Become  
Living Classrooms for the OC's  
Scientists and Students

***ALSO INSIDE: Messengers of Peace, Passion for Education, NSU Stars, and much more***



# Wherever life takes you, you'll always be a Shark.

Before you head out for your next business trip or vacation, check the NSU Alumni Association Web site for events near your destination. With chapters throughout the United States and Canada, it's easy to reconnect with former classmates, network with fellow alumni, and feel at home—even when you're far from campus.



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Nova Southeastern University is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097, Telephone number: 404-679-4501) to award associate's, bachelor's, master's, educational specialist, and doctoral degrees.

Nova Southeastern University admits students of any race, color, sex, age, nondisqualifying disability, religion or creed, sexual orientation, or national or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school, and does not discriminate in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs.





To the Friends and Family of NSU:

Nova Southeastern University's influence reaches for the sky and goes as deep as the ocean. No, that's not hyperbole—but reality that shows in the spring issue of *Horizons*.

For the sky, we look at NSU's own skyline. NSU's architecture is a wonderful example of form and function working together. That's why our centerpiece this issue also is a keepsake with photographs of our main campus.

For the ocean, read our cover story about Oceanographic Center researchers' efforts locally and throughout the world. We can proudly say that our OC scientists are advancing scientific knowledge and saving the seas through their synergistic research. Our world-renowned Oceanographic Center recently received a \$15-million federal grant to build the nation's largest coral reef research center.

This issue also pays tribute to my colleague—and friend—Fred Lippman, who heads up the Health Professions Division, and is responsible for six colleges. His stewardship helped launch new nursing, anesthesiologist assistant, and physician assistant programs; created one of the most selective dental schools in the nation; and produced high-quality health care professionals.

The appearances of His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama of Tibet and Archbishop Desmond Tutu at NSU's main campus show our community outreach.

NSU's annual Celebration of Excellence is our way of honoring community leaders and our alumni. This year, philanthropist Don Taft and Holy Cross Hospital CEO John C. Johnson each were awarded the Chancellor's Community Award, formerly known as the President's Community Award. Taft's name graces our University Center and it is because of him that NSU is currently the only university to house a chapter of Special Olympics.

This year, NSU welcomed three new campus leaders. Two of them—Michael Fields and Margaret Malmberg—are featured in this issue. The third addition to our NSU family—Leo Irakliotis, the new dean of the Graduate School of Computer and Information Sciences—will be featured in *Horizons*' fall issue.

Student leadership is showcased by Hugh Brown, who is earning his M.B.A. while serving as a Gubernatorial Fellow in Tallahassee. We also reach out to the next generation through the Junior Achievement World Huizenga Center, the largest such facility of its kind.

NSU graduates are indeed changing lives and changing the world.

Ray Ferrero, Jr., J.D.  
Chancellor, Nova Southeastern University

## HORIZONS

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### Health Professions Degrees Expand Across Florida

A medical mission in Togo, West Africa, inspired Helen Gilmore to pursue a career as a physician assistant (PA). Now, she works toward that goal as part of the first physician assistant class at NSU's Student Educational Center (SEC) in Jacksonville, Florida. This is one of the latest locations where NSU has expanded its degree offerings in the health professions.

"It was inspiring. The PAs on the Togo trip were able to help a lot of people because of their work and their knowledge," said Gilmore. "When I came home, I knew this is what I wanted to do."

Physician assistants practice medicine with physician supervision. PAs take medical histories, conduct physical examinations, order and interpret tests, diagnose and treat illnesses, assist in surgeries, and write prescriptions. NSU has established PA programs on the main campus and in Orlando and Fort Myers, as well as the inaugural class of 40 PA students who started in Jacksonville last summer.

An extension of NSU's anesthesiologist assistant (AA) program also began last year, with 26

students at the SEC in Tampa. AAs work in a care team format with an anesthesiologist to give anesthesia care. Upon graduation, these students will be granted Master of Health Science degrees. NSU is the fourth university in the United States to offer an AA program and the only university in Florida to have the program.

"Florida and the nation have a need for more providers of anesthesia and for more physician assistants," said Richard E. Davis, Ed.D., PA-C, dean of NSU's College of Allied Health and Nursing, which runs both the AA and PA programs.

Being within driving distance of her family in South Carolina and the ability to work closely with accomplished faculty members made the Jacksonville PA program the perfect fit for Gilmore.

"The student-to-instructor ratio was the best of any school that I looked at," said Gilmore, who was elected class president of the inaugural PA class in Jacksonville. "They have jam packed our brains full of as much information as possible." ■

### University School Art Institute a Hub of Community Creativity



Some students scurry past with ballet shoes in hand, while others come armed with a cello, guitar, or violin. In the hall, a teen rehearses a monologue. Another student trills up and down the scales, warming up her voice.

Though their ages, goals, and activities might differ, each student shares a common bond: They are a part of the bustling hub of creativity fostered at the new Art Institute at NSU's University School.

"There is never a dull moment here," said Jenny Cook, director of the arts at University School. "We have lessons going on early afternoon through the evening, on weekends, and during school breaks."

The new University School Art Institute was formed when the prekindergarten through 12th grade, private, college preparatory school located on NSU's main campus underwent the largest expansion in its 39-year history. Part of the \$60-million enhancement unveiled in August 2009 included the 70,800-square-foot Epstein Center for the Arts.

Thanks to funding provided by the Cahalin Family Foundation, University School was able to open the Art Institute in the Epstein Center to the entire South Florida community, offering classes for children, teens, and adults of all levels of experience.

At any given time, more than 30 classes are on the University School Art Institute roster, including individual and ensemble musical instrument and vocal lessons; acting and playwriting workshops; dance and movement classes featuring salsa, tap, ballet, and hip hop; watercolor and acrylic painting; and more.

"We are always adding new programs and classes," Cook said. "We are growing tremendously."

For more information, visit [www.uschool.nova.edu/artinstitute](http://www.uschool.nova.edu/artinstitute) or call (954) 262-4494. ■

Second-grader Jacob Levine practices with Gaynor Terrero, a music instructor in the University School's Art Institute, at the Epstein Center.



## Around Campus

### Real Life Superhero Makes NSU Home to Special Olympics Chapter

BY ANDRA PARRISH LIWAG

He doesn't wear a cape, have x-ray vision, or fly faster than a speeding bullet, but to the more than 800 athletes of Special Olympics Broward County (SOBC), local businessman and philanthropist Don Taft is the best kind of superhero—one who makes an indelible, positive impact in the real world.

After more than 36 years of operating out of living rooms, storefronts, and a one-room office, the athletic group now has a permanent home at Nova Southeastern University thanks to Taft.

The partnership came about as part of a generous gift the Taft Foundation made to NSU in 2009. In recognition of Taft's contribution, the 366,000-square-foot Don Taft University Center was named in his honor. The gift also allowed Taft to provide Special Olympics Broward County with a permanent home at the university—the first and only one of its kind.

"Don Taft and the Taft Foundation have helped our dreams come true," said Paul Sallarulo, chairman of Special Olympics Broward County and a member of the NSU Board of Trustees. "This extraordinary gift has provided our athletes with resources that will enable them to be the very best they can be."

In addition to providing the group with a permanent office space, the athletes will also have access to all of NSU's athletics facilities. This will be a much-used benefit, since Special Olympics Broward County provides year-round, free sports training and Olympic-style competition to athletes with intellectual disabilities.

The group coordinates competition in 22 sports through the support of more than 40 training programs throughout the county.

All athletes ages eight years and older, no matter their ability level, can participate in and benefit from Special Olympics, said Linda Mills, the group's director. "Through successful sports training and competition, Special Olympics athletes develop physically, socially, and psychologically," she said. "The positive experiences the athletes have in ongoing Special Olympics programs build confidence and self-image, which carries into all aspects of their lives."

The group moved into its new offices last fall and celebrated with a Grand Opening and Appreciation Picnic, which featured carnival games, relay and sack races, a magic show, sports demonstrations, and lots of food to fuel the athletes and guests.

The day also honored the hard work and support of all the Special Olympics athletes, their families, board members, law enforcement supporters, sponsors, and volunteers—including the group's very own superhero, Don Taft.

Visit [www.specialolympicsbroward.org](http://www.specialolympicsbroward.org) or call (954) 262-2150 for more information. ■



### GET INVOLVED

Volunteers are the backbone of Special Olympics. Depending on your interests and the amount of time you have available, Special Olympics can offer volunteer opportunities including

- Day-of-Event Volunteers—Help support county competition in county games.
- Training Program Volunteers—Be a coach or unified partner or help support athletes as they train for a sport.
- County Management Team Committee Volunteers—Use your expertise to support the county program through committees including public relations, budget and finance, volunteer management, and fund-raising.
- General Support Volunteers—Help with fund-raising events, speakers bureau, entertainment, data entry, secretarial work, or medical exams for athletes.

Upcoming Special Olympics Broward County events include the 2010 Sallarulo's Race for Champions 5k Run/Walk at NSU's main campus on Sunday, May 2.

For more volunteer opportunity information, please call (954) 262-2150.

## An Accent on Scholarship

BY ROBERT SPENCER KNOTTS

At NSU, seven students are in an especially prestigious category. They are Fulbright students from around the world studying in the Department of Conflict Analysis and Resolution.

"All of these students have a common denominator," said Judith McKay, Ph.D., chair of the Department of Multidisciplinary Studies in the Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences, which hosts these Fulbright students. "They can imagine that things can be different and that they can be part of that difference."

The students are Tami Rafidi and Adnan Abdalla, both Palestinian; Nawal Al-Jawhari from Jordan; Solomon Losha from Cameroon; Hassan Khannenje from Kenya; Cyril Adonis from South Africa; and Ronald Mabunga from the Philippines.

The Fulbright scholars learn about the theory, research, and practice of conflict and resolution from "every different angle," said McKay, from community projects such as the Peace Place to talking to a variety of groups.

"At home, I teach undergraduate and graduate school," said Mabunga, 40. "I should be able to develop the peace education curriculum at my university and perhaps elsewhere in the Philippines."

The Fulbright students came to South Florida because NSU operates one of only two programs within the United States offering a Ph.D. in conflict analysis and resolution. The other is at George Mason University in Virginia.

"We're proud to have them here, and I think they're proud to be here," said Neil Katz, Ph.D., chair of the Department of Conflict Analysis and Resolution, which has about 450 students.

The scholars' challenges include adjusting to American culture and education and meeting their financial needs after the two-year funding from the Fulbright program ends. "Unfortunately, trying to scrape enough money to pay for finishing their degree requirements after the initial two years of Fulbright funding adds significant stress to our Fulbright scholars," said Katz. The award pays for two years of academic work, but the Ph.D. program requires three years of courses plus a



*Hassan Khannenje, Nawal Al-Jawhari, and Solomon Losha*

qualifying exam and dissertation, which may require additional years.

Still, the NSU experience is invaluable, Fulbright scholars say.

"This course introduced me to cultural aspects of conflict," said Al-Jawhari, 44, who is a judge in Jordan. Al-Jawhari says she is likely to focus her dissertation on issues related to water disputes in the Middle East.

That happens many times. "Most of the Fulbright dissertations are about issues back home," said McKay. "They will bring what they learn here back home and apply it to their own cultures."

The students' experiences at NSU also will have an impact on the future of their countries, McKay said. "These scholars are considered to be in the top level of their country in terms of

academics and are viewed as having the potential to be significant leaders in their country—whether it's in politics, culture, or academics."

During their stay, the scholars have done more than widen their own perspectives, McKay said. They've also enlightened NSU's homegrown student body. "Sometimes students have preconceptions and these get challenged as they're exposed to students from other cultures," she said. "We have a lot of 'Ah-ha' moments. And a lot of 'Oh!' Eyes get opened to new things." ■

### THE BEST AND BRIGHTEST

Established in 1946, the Fulbright Program is the largest U.S. international exchange program, allowing students and professionals to pursue graduate study, teaching, and advanced research worldwide. Fulbright scholars are selected for their academic merit and leadership potential. About 6,000 grants were awarded in 2008, with primary funding from the United States government.



## New Dean Gets Down to Business

BY ALAN HANCOCK

With a background as a marketer, **Michael Fields**, Ph.D., recognizes a good opportunity when he sees it. And that's why Fields says he jumped at the chance to become the dean of NSU's H. Wayne Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship.

Fields joined the Huizenga School last August, replacing Randolph Pohlman, Ph.D., who stepped down as dean after 14 years, but has remained a member of the NSU faculty. Fields is now charged with leading a business school that boasts more than 6,000 students and has the largest M.B.A. program in Florida.

Fields came to NSU from Central Michigan University, where he served as dean of the College of Business Administration since 2006. He was a member of the faculty at Missouri State University's College of Business Administration from 1990 to 2006, including stints serving as an associate dean and as director of the M.B.A. program. He was also on the faculty at the University of North Carolina—Charlotte from 1985 to 1990.

Prior to entering academia, Fields worked in management in the supermarket, food, and retail industries from 1972 to 1981. He earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in business administration and his Ph.D. in marketing from the University of Arkansas.

*Horizons* spoke with Fields as he set out his vision for the Huizenga School.

### What attracted you to the Huizenga School?

A tremendous foundation has been laid here. We have an outstanding school named after premier entrepreneur Wayne Huizenga. We have a gorgeous facility—the Carl DeSantis building—that provides all the resources needed to educate our students. We have a tremendous faculty that has really differentiated itself by bringing real-world expertise into the classroom.

And, there's a foundation of value creation that was driven by my predecessor, Randy Pohlman.

The university has made a real commitment to accreditation from the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB). As part of the process toward accreditation, the Huizenga School is adding 30 faculty positions over the next three years. That will allow us to develop some differentiated offerings.

The position has everything a business school dean would want in the job.

### What challenges lay ahead?

We are in very tough economic times. Companies are looking for ways to cut expenses. Many companies have quietly discontinued or temporarily suspended their tuition reimbursement programs, partly because they question the return on the investment that they are receiving. Graduate business education is at a critical juncture.

### How can you address these challenges?

The Huizenga School already has an established relationship with industry and business. My goal is to take the school and drive it that much closer to industry and to business. We will listen to businesses and find out what skills and knowledge they desire from their employees and determine where there are gaps in those skills. The Huizenga School will then design programs that address those needs.

When we begin hiring new faculty members, it won't just be the addition of 30 professors to the school. These hires will be in response to areas that businesses feel need to be addressed. These programs will give the school and our graduates a differential advantage.



### When students graduate with a business degree from NSU, how do you hope the Huizenga School has prepared them for their careers?

We want to provide our students with a very good practical understanding of business. They are being taught not only the theory that provides the foundation for their particular discipline, but also the practice of that theory. Our faculty members have “walked the walk” and been leaders in business. They are able to put that theory to work and bridge that gap between theory and application of theory. We want our graduates to be able to drive value to the employers who hire them from day one. ■

## Collaboration Becomes Key to Establishment of New Division

BY FELECIA HENDERSON

The last six months have been filled with challenges and opportunities for **Margaret Malmberg**—the associate provost for a newly formed division that includes the Mailman Segal Institute, the Center for Psychological Studies, the Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences, and the Criminal Justice Institute.

Malmberg, who received her master's and Ph.D. degrees in experimental psychology from Texas Christian University, comes to NSU with a wealth of experience in academia.

After two years as associate dean at the University of Maine and director of the university's Hutchinson Center in Belfast, Maine, she was lured away by former colleague Wilson G. Hess, president of the College of the Marshall Islands (CMI). She became the vice president for Academic Affairs and Student Life and Development of CMI, the national college for the Republic of the Marshall Islands, a small country made up of atolls and islands. The islands are just 7 degrees north of the equator and 2,500 miles west of Hawaii. The decision wasn't too difficult, as Malmberg's husband, Steven, was already at CMI, in charge of designing and building a K-8 charter school.

At CMI, Malmberg eventually became executive vice president. Malmberg and the administration brought a struggling college that had been placed on "show cause" to full accreditation from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, which called it a "model for the Pacific region."

Malmberg, who likes to be called Meg, is delighted to join the NSU family. "There is a spirit of joint venture here," she says.

**What were some of the significant contributions made by you and your administration at the College of the Marshall Islands?**

We doubled enrollment and significantly increased retention and graduation rates, particularly for students in developmental education. We also brought significant resources to the college, including an Area Health Education Center (AHEC) grant with Pacific regional partners and the first Partners in Nursing Grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation awarded outside the United States.

**What is the primary goal of grouping the Center for Psychological Studies, the Mailman Segal Institute, the Criminal Justice Institute, and the Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences together?**

The goal of the new (yet to be named) division is to increase the opportunities for collaboration and cooperation among the four units in the new division and among other NSU colleges. This will increase options for NSU graduate and undergraduate students and enhance opportunities for interdisciplinary teaching, research, and service.

**What challenges do you see?**

It will be important to protect the autonomy of each unit while finding opportunities for the division. Additionally, collaboratively finding a name for the division that is representative both of current work and of what may emerge is important. We need to establish a new identity. Equally important is supporting faculty and staff members as they take ownership of what this means to each of the programs within the division.

**What positives do you see?**

The division has the potential to support interdisciplinary efforts in program development, community outreach, and research. Our graduate programs will provide innovative options for students preparing for emerging careers.

Community service will be complemented by our research. The integrated units will bring more recognition of the faculty's and student body's contributions.

**Do you have a philosophy or strategy for achieving collaboration between the four units?**

Collaborations grow out of shared needs and the recognition that joint endeavors can bring opportunities that might not be possible without the expertise of multiple perspectives. For now, I am doing my best to make myself available to faculty and staff members, so that I can learn about what collaborations are already happening, as well as those being considered. The three deans and the director of each of the four units are meeting with me, a very important part of my grounding. ■





# Celebration of Excellence



Each year, NSU defines excellence through the men and women it honors during the university's Celebration of Excellence awards presentation. NSU's annual Celebration of Excellence began in 1997 to honor community leaders and industry pioneers who have made significant contributions to their professions and communities.

Don Taft, a philanthropist who has spent more than 50 years as a business leader, and John C. Johnson, a hospital innovator, were awarded the Chancellor's Community Award, NSU's highest honor, which is given by Chancellor Ray Ferrero, Jr., during the annual event in January.

Taft has founded, owned, and managed both private and publicly traded companies. He also is a major supporter of NSU. The 366,000-square-foot University Center is named in honor of Taft and his gift from the Taft Foundation. Proceeds from Taft's gifts also were used to help Special Olympics Broward County (SOBC) have a permanent home for its athletes on the NSU campus. (See story on page 4)

Taft's philanthropic and charitable endeavors show his commitment to the community. He is an honorary chairman for Gilda's Club of South Florida and a member of the board of directors of several organizations, including the SOBC, the Children's Diagnostic and Treatment Center, and the Ronald McDonald House. He is on the advisory board for the Children's Cancer Center at Broward General Medical Center and the Jeff Conine Golf Tournament. He has contributed to the Conine Clubhouse at Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital and donated to the cost and upkeep of its chapel.

Johnson has served as president and CEO of Holy Cross Hospital in Fort Lauderdale since 1998. Under his leadership, Holy Cross Hospital has been named one of the "Top 50 Hospitals" by HealthGrades for three consecutive years and one of the top 100 cardiovascular centers in the United States. Johnson also became president and CEO of Mercy Hospital in Miami in 2008.

Johnson has been honored for his service to the community. He received the Alexis De Tocqueville Award from the Broward County United Way in 2002 and served as the United Way of Broward County's chairman from 2004 to 2005. He has also supported the American Heart Association's Heart Walk and the American Cancer Society. Johnson received the *Sun-Sentinel* Publisher's Community Service Award in 2005.

Don Taft, left center, and John C. Johnson, right center, with Ray Ferrero, Jr., chancellor, and George L. Hanbury II, president



## DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS

The Celebration of Excellence honored the 2009 Distinguished Alumni with awards to graduates of the university's schools, colleges, and centers. The honorees were

**Monty T. Baker, Ph.D., 2002**  
**Center for Psychological Studies**

An active-duty Air Force psychologist for the past eight years, Baker is currently the director of research for the Warrior Resiliency Program at the San Antonio Military Medical Center.

**Alex F. Brylske, M.S., 1997**  
**Oceanographic Center**

Brylske is Florida's regional coordinator for Reef Check and is a member of the Sanctuary Advisory Council for the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary.

**Jayden Carr**  
**Mailman Segal Institute for Early Childhood Studies**

When he was two years old, Carr was in an auto accident, leaving him with numerous challenges. Even at such a young age, his determination and persistence were remarkable. (See story on page 26)

**Elizabeth W. DeGrace, Ph.D., 2001**  
**College of Allied Health and Nursing**

DeGrace, an assistant professor in the Department of Rehabilitation Science at the University of Oklahoma Health Science Center, has worked for 20 years as an occupational therapist specializing in pediatrics.

**Elizabeth Feldman, D.M.D., 2005**  
**College of Dental Medicine**

Feldman focuses on prosthetic correction and management of the head and neck cancer patient with maxillofacial rehabilitation needs at M. D. Anderson Cancer Center in Orlando.

**John D. Geake, D.O., 1993**  
**College of Osteopathic Medicine**

In addition to his own practice at Riverside Glades Medical Center in Moore Haven, Florida, Geake is also on staff at Hendry Regional Medical Center and is the medical director of its Corporate Health Division. He also helped establish the Lake Area Medical Society.

**Andrew Gregory, O.D., 2002**  
**College of Optometry**

Assigned to Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Gregory provides full-scope optometric care to active duty and retired military and their family members.

**Jeffrey A. Groom, Ph.D., 2003**  
**Graduate School of Computer and Information Sciences**

The director and an associate professor of anesthesiology nursing at Florida International University, Groom also is a board member of the Gordon Center for Research in Medical Education in emergency medical teaching programs at the University of Miami.

**Cristina M. Medina, Pharm.D., 2000**  
**College of Pharmacy**

Medina is the liaison between CVS Pharmacy and all colleges of pharmacy in Florida and Puerto Rico. She serves on NSU's College of Pharmacy Committee of Admissions to determine which applicants are accepted to each of the College of Pharmacy locations.

**Noël Linke Miner, M.S., 1998**  
**Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences**

Miner's 20-year career as a legal professional has involved her with mediation since 1991. Miner wants to continue the advancement of alternative dispute resolution (ADR) and improve its social awareness in everyday conflict.

**Ben M. Morey**  
**Museum of Art | Fort Lauderdale**

Morey has been able to develop his skills as an artist at the Studio Art Academy at the Museum of Art | Fort Lauderdale, Nova Southeastern University. Morey plans to graduate in the spring with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Maryland Institute College of Art.

**Alejandro Palacios, M.I.B.A., 2003**  
**H. Wayne Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship**

Palacios is vice president of Strategy and GoGreen for DHL Global Forwarding Americas, a business unit of DP DHL, the world's largest logistics group. He is responsible for business strategy, focusing on growth, continual improvement, product development, and innovation. (See story on page 30)

**Nicole M. Prouty, 1994**  
**University School**

Prouty has been at EHS Partners for eight years, managing project work for clients in various industries including utilities, financial services, business services, consumer goods, and insurance.

**Drew Richardson, Ed.D., 2003**  
**Fischler School of Education and Human Services**

Richardson is president and CEO for the Professional Association of Diving Instructors, the world's largest recreational diver training and educational organization. More than 14,291,000 divers worldwide have been trained using standards, procedures, and educational materials created under his leadership.

**Roy Jacob Smith IV, B.S., 1997**  
**Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences**

As a partner/shareholder with the Weiss Legal Group, Smith dedicates his career to representing consumers and accident victims in Florida and representing clients in family law matters.

**Theresa Van Vliet, J.D., 1983**  
**Shepard Broad Law Center**

An attorney with Genovese, Joblove and Battista, Van Vliet concentrates her practice in white-collar litigation and related civil and compliance matters.





# LEARNING MORE BY GIVING MORE

BY ROBERT SPENCER KNOTTS

**A**t NSU, undergraduates and graduates receive a double education—the knowledge that comes from books and research and the knowledge that comes from helping others in the real world while still in school.

“I find that by taking part in volunteer events, I get one step closer to becoming a physician,” said Norberto Mancera, a junior in NSU’s premed program. “Helping other people and informing them about how to keep healthy is exactly what a good doctor should do.”

Mancera is among 50 undergraduate and graduate students trained each year by Mark Jaffe, D.P.M., to provide health screenings. “It’s rewarding to see them having an impact even before they begin their careers,” said Jaffe, an associate professor in the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences’ Division of Math, Science, and Technology. “Students learn the importance of commitment toward society before they go off into their professional lives.”

NSU students are proving that commitment daily. Through campus organizations, NSU officials track undergraduate volunteer hours, which included more than 5,400 hours of service during the fall 2009 semester. That number doesn’t include the high number of graduate students and undergrads who help nonprofits outside of campus organizations.

NSU's social sorority, Lambda Theta Alpha, worked more than 1,150 hours and raised more than \$25,000 during that semester, mainly as part of a sponsorship of an anti-suicide walk called "Out of the Darkness."

"There's a variety of interest in volunteerism," said Terry Morrow, director of NSU's Office of Student Leadership and Civic Engagement. "Student leaders want to make a difference. Also, many of these people attended high schools that required community service hours, so it's part of their culture."

### Myriad Opportunities

The list of NSU student volunteer activities is long. It includes attorneys-to-be who work in the Shepard Broad Law Center Pro

struggling villages in Ghana, with two of those students traveling to the West African nation for hands-on contributions. The strategic planning and on-site assistance of these volunteers helped build a health clinic for several thousand villagers, says Cyril Blavo, D.O., director of the Master of Public Health Program and coordinator of the Ghana volunteers.

During a focus group held in the village of Tafi Atome to determine the impact of the students' work, Blavo recalled, "An older woman stood up in the back and said, 'Because of you, the children no longer die.'"

Other NSU student missions have visited nations in South America and the Caribbean as well as elsewhere in Africa, including

return. Jonathan Sanz, a theatre and music major in his sophomore year at the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences, has volunteered for more than a year at the Promethean Theatre, a professional dramatic company based at NSU. His responsibilities have included assisting with lights, costumes, and props and performing on stage.

"I feel a part of the company. And I feel that I'm valued heavily," said Sanz. "I think I help make their lives a lot easier by being there. It's been a very positive experience, and I love these people now."

Some campus organizations spread out their assistance to a variety of nonprofits. The honorary fraternity, Alpha Phi Omega, with 28 active members who work with 15 to 25 different groups, currently

**VOLUNTEERISM IN ACTION** Less than 24 hours after the horrific January earthquake in Haiti, NSU students and faculty members had galvanized relief efforts. Prayer vigils, relief drives, fund-raising, and special events were arranged by a large cross section of NSU colleges, organizations, and individuals, including the Haitian Student Association and the Division of Student Affairs. NSU's response didn't stop after the initial first weeks. Faculty members from the Health Professions Division and the Center of Psychological Studies have gone to Haiti to aid in this ongoing effort. For more information on NSU relief efforts, visit the NSU home page at [www.nova.edu](http://www.nova.edu) and click on the Haitian Relief section.

Bono Honor Program, which informs students about unmet legal needs in their communities and provides them with opportunities to work directly with low-income and underprivileged clients.

Recent student volunteerism also has included free dental work for low-income children by the College of Dental Medicine; fund-raising for hurricane relief in Haiti through the Health Professions Division's colleges of pharmacy, osteopathic medicine, and allied health and nursing; and no-cost health care screenings for more than 1,000 seniors at the annual "Boomers and Beyond" event.

Sometimes, NSU students address critical needs thousands of miles from the South Florida campus. For example, 15 students have worked to improve life in six

Uganda. "Our goal is to serve the local South Florida community, yes, but also the global community with one international project every year," said Sakthi Murugan, a premed junior and founding member of NSU's chapter of Rotaract, the youth branch of Rotary International. "Last year, we raised more than \$10,000 to help build a school in Uganda and sent two of our members for physical support on the grounds ... Our next goal involves 'Project Paraguay,' where we hope to raise \$30,000 this spring to build a new library for a small Paraguayan town."

### Local Groups Not Neglected

NSU student volunteers also lend their talents to small local organizations, where they gain practical career skills in

helps out such nonprofits as Adopt-a-Street, Habitat for Humanity, and the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts of America. In November, Alpha Phi volunteers held a charity auction with all proceeds donated to the Tropical Rainforest Coalition. During the fall 2009 semester, the group devoted more than 500 hours to charity work and raised \$500.

"I've always been very involved. It provides me with an outlet to give back to the community. It's also helped me branch out at NSU, to meet a lot of people through our collaborations and improve my leadership skills," said A.K. Bennett, a sophomore legal studies major who is the recruitment chair for NSU's chapter of Alpha Phi Omega. "I believe we're all here not just for ourselves, but also to help other people." ■



# Student Spotlight

## M.B.A. Student Gets an Education in Government

BY ALAN HANCOCK

When **Hugh Brown** started the Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.) in Finance degree program at NSU's Tampa Student Educational Center (SEC) last summer, he immediately became involved with Tampa's SEC Student Government Association. Soon after, he began working for another government entity—the Florida governor's office.

Brown is one of 14 college students from Florida selected to the fifth class of Gubernatorial Fellows. He is the first NSU student to be chosen for this competitive program, and he's the only student in this year's class not attending a state university. Students in the program spend nine months working in the Executive Office of the Governor or in government agencies in Tallahassee, gaining firsthand experience in state government.

Brown, 30, started his fellowship last August, working in the Office of Drug Control. He is working on the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program that Governor Charlie Crist signed into law last year. The law mandates the establishment of a statewide database to monitor patients receiving prescription drugs such as oxycodone and morphine.

"It's been a real eye-opener," Brown said. "It's something a lot of people will never really get to experience, and it's given me an understanding of how things in government have to flow and what has to occur to get a task accomplished."

Although the fellowship is Brown's first experience in government, it's not his first time as a public servant. After graduating from high school in 1998, he joined the Air Force and worked in its medical field, gaining a passion for public service.

"I went into the Air Force on my 19th birthday, and I had no idea what I was doing," he said. "I grew up really fast. It gave me an understanding of working in public service. Public service is a key part of life."

After four years in the Air Force, Brown attended Florida State University. That's where he became active in their Student Government Association, spending two years as vice chair of judiciary.

Since graduating from FSU in 2006 with bachelor's degrees in history and international affairs, Brown has worked for Northwestern Mutual, specifically in areas of insurance and investments. He enrolled at NSU's H. Wayne Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship last summer to study finance with hopes of becoming a chartered financial analyst.



During his fellowship, Brown has remained in the M.B.A. program and is taking distance learning courses while in Tallahassee. While his work on the prescription drug monitoring program isn't directly in his area of study, he has been able to apply his coursework in the M.B.A. program to the project.

"I can look at balance sheets and understand why certain things are there and why an item might cost this much," he said.

And Brown's work is gaining notice. *Florida Trend* magazine profiled him as a Rising Star last year, and he's earned praise from the head of drug control in the state's capital.

"We think that Hugh is a great young man," said Bruce Grant, director of the Office of Drug Control. "He has been doing a terrific job in our office and is a great representative of the university."

After completing the fellowship in May, Brown will turn his focus full time to the M.B.A. program and plans to graduate by spring 2011. He wants a career that will put his finance and government experience to use.

"I'm meeting a lot of people in different areas—within government, outside of government, and even in different areas of finance," said Brown. "I think the fellowship will open doors in my career down the road."

More information on the Gubernatorial Fellows Program is available at [www.floridafellows.com](http://www.floridafellows.com). ■





### Messengers of Peace Speak at NSU

BY ALAN HANCOCK

They are two global icons with a common message of peace and goodwill. And they visited NSU just days apart this February.

His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama of Tibet and Archbishop Desmond Tutu, both of whom have been awarded a Nobel Peace Prize, each spoke on NSU's main campus, preaching compassion and humanity.

The Dalai Lama, as both the head of state and spiritual leader of Tibet, has led a nonviolent struggle for the liberation of Tibet. He has traveled to more than 62 countries and met with heads of states and heads of different religions to advocate policies of nonviolence even in the face of extreme aggression.

The Dalai Lama visited on February 23 at events hosted jointly by NSU and Broward College. In the morning, he spoke on the topic of universal responsibility to NSU and Broward College students and faculty and staff members in the Arena at the Don Taft University Center. That afternoon, also in the arena, he addressed the public on the effect of compassion on the global community.

It was the Dalai Lama's second visit to NSU. In September 2004, he gave a public speech to 10,000 people in front of NSU's Alvin Sherman Library and held private gatherings with students and faculty members. His visit to South Florida this year was coordinated jointly by NSU, Broward College, and Florida Atlantic University.

"It is fitting that academic institutions hosted His Holiness, as he has become a great teacher and

proponent of world peace and goodwill," said NSU Chancellor Ray Ferrero, Jr.

On February 26, just three days after the Dalai Lama's appearance, Tutu spoke in the arena. Tutu's appearance was part of the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences' Distinguished Speaker Series. He presented on "Good vs. Evil: Human Rights or Humans Wronged," corresponding to the college's 2009–2010 academic theme of "Good and Evil."

"Tutu's message of engaging in peaceful resolution to address conflict and oppose injustice is especially relevant to our students and to our South Florida community," said Don Rosenblum, Ph.D., dean of the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences. "I believe students gained personal insights and inspiration by listening to Tutu and by his challenging them to consider ways they can make a difference in their own lives and communities."

Tutu rose to prominence in the 1970s and '80s as a leader in a nonviolent movement against apartheid in his homeland of South Africa. He remains active in advancing peace today as a member of The Elders, a group of global leaders brought together by former South African president Nelson Mandela to address causes of human suffering and promote humanity. ■





An underwater photograph of a coral reef. The top half shows clear blue water with many small, light-colored fish swimming. The bottom half, separated by a curved white line, shows a close-up of a coral reef with some coral appearing bleached or white. The text is overlaid on the top half.

**NSU OCEANOGRAPHIC CENTER'S RESEARCH**

# **Impacting the**

**In the still of a hot summer night off the coast of Fort Lauderdale, something magical is happening under 25 feet of water.**





BY KEN MA

Staghorn corals are releasing millions of eggs and sperm into the dark Atlantic Ocean during mating season, a once-a-year phenomenon that happens after a full moon. Nova Southeastern University Oceanographic Center researcher Alison Moulding, Ph.D., and her graduate students are not only witnessing this incredible act of nature known as coral spawning, they are there to help save the species. Using high-powered lights and nets, they dive into the depths to collect the many pinkish eggs and sperm scattered wildly in the water and in between the Staghorn's branches. They will bring the harvest back to their laboratories to grow the coral, which will eventually be returned to the sea to replace damaged ones.

"My research focuses on coral reef restoration and recovery from damage," Moulding said. "Conservation and reducing pressure on coral reefs are the keys to their survival and vitality."

Moulding is one of dozens of world-class researchers and scientists at the well-known NSU Oceanographic Center, called the OC for short. They are scientists studying the many species of corals, sharks, sponges, billfish, manatees, and just about anything related to the ocean. Their research has helped protect the oceans.

"Consequently, most of our research is management and conservation oriented, designed to seek knowledge and information that can be useful in promoting a more healthy and sustainable ocean for users of all kinds," said Richard E. Dodge, Ph.D., dean of the OC, which is located at John U. Lloyd Beach State Park in Dania Beach.

That knowledge is essential for basic understanding of the oceanic world and for use by marine managers and policymakers to protect and conserve the seas.

OC faculty and staff members are academics, professors, researchers, and mentors for their students. And their good work has not gone unnoticed.

#### **CORAL REEF RESEARCH CENTER**

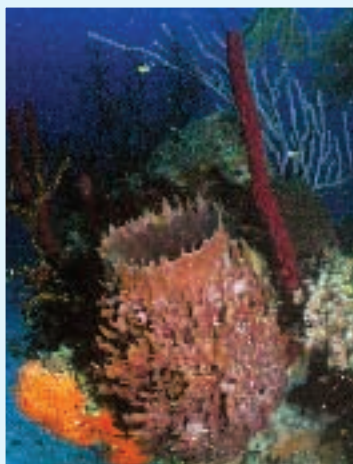
In January, the OC received a \$15-million stimulus grant from the federal government to build the nation's largest coral reef research center, the 86,000-square-foot Center for Excellence for Coral Reef Ecosystems Science Research Facility. NSU was among 12 universities, out of 167 applying nationwide, to receive a comprehensive and prestigious grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce. NSU was one of only two universities that received the full amount of \$15 million.

The university will more than match the federal grant, providing \$22 million to build the center at the OC. The \$37-million facility is





NCRI researchers survey corals in Broward County waters, while other graduate students prepare for their dive. Below, Alison Moulding, Ph.D., checks a settlement tank for juvenile corals.



The goal is to expand research by current and new faculty researchers, visiting scientists, postdoctoral fellows, and graduate students.

### REEFS IN DECLINE

These OC knowledge seekers are uncovering the mysteries of coral reefs—wave-resistant, calcium carbonate structures formed by the skeletons of living coral animals. Corals have plant cells, which are derived from algae, in their animal tissues. These cells allow them to use sunlight for food and energy.

Coral reefs provide shelter, food, and living space for fish and other marine life. Most of them are found in tropical and subtropical waters between the latitudes of the Tropic of Capricorn and the Tropic of Cancer. However, there are species of deep-sea corals that can live in cold water areas.

South Florida has the largest concentration of coral reefs in the contiguous United States. Called the Florida Reef Track, it stretches from Martin County in the north, to The Keys and the Dry Tortugas in the south. These reefs, along with others around the world, are under grave threat today from a variety of causes, including pollutants carried to the ocean by storm drains and sewers, ship groundings and anchors, the frequent hunt for aquarium fish, and the overgrowth of algae in

areas of excessive nutrients.

Other factors that kill coral reefs include the effects of climate change, which increases ocean temperatures and acidity levels. A global rise in carbon dioxide levels, according to scientists, is the chief culprit of climate change.

Why should we care? Coral reef ecosystems are extremely valuable biologically, environmentally, and economically. They provide employment by creating jobs; recreation for swimmers, snorkelers, anglers, and divers; and coastal protection against storms for millions of residents and tourists. In South Florida, reefs are a \$6-billion industry that employs 71,000 people, according to Dodge.

Currently, at least 20 percent of the world's coral reefs are gone, and another 50 percent are in danger. At this rate, coral reefs may not be around for future generations to enjoy.

"The ocean, and particularly the reefs, can barely survive today's threats," Dodge said. "Urgent action is needed at the local and international levels."

Action has been underway for a while at the Oceanographic Center. It's home to the National

expected to create 22 new academic jobs and 300 construction jobs; employ 50 graduate students; and preserve 22 existing academic jobs. It's expected to open in December 2011.

"I am thrilled that Nova Southeastern University has this opportunity to continue its leadership role in Florida's and the nation's science and

research economy," said NSU Chancellor Ray Ferrero, Jr. "This type of research infrastructure is urgently needed to support economic growth and environmental sustainability in our region."

Using the largest research grant in NSU's history, the center will be the only research facility in the nation dedicated to coral reef ecosystem research (reefs and their surrounding environment). It will have space for offices, laboratories that allow for research collaboration, training, and staging for fieldwork.



*The Center of Excellence for Coral Reef Ecosystems Science Research Facility will be located at the Oceanographic Center.*

Coral Reef Institute (NCRI), one of four such facilities (located in Florida, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and Guam) dedicated to coral reef research. Using federal funding from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), scientists from NCRI undertake a variety of research projects in many locations, ranging from Florida to the Red Sea and the Pacific and Indian oceans.

Jose V. Lopez, Ph.D., OC associate professor, is using his five-year, \$3.2-million grant from the National Science Foundation to study sponges that live among coral reefs to find important clues to their decline. Others, like Bernhard Riegl, Ph.D., NCRI associate director, are studying the effects of climate change on coral reefs. Riegl is examining the extent to which warmer ocean temperatures, likely caused by greenhouse gases, kill corals.

“Without research, there is no clarity about which actions need to be taken to conserve nature,” Riegl said.

Other researchers, such as Richard Spieler, Ph.D., director of the OC’s academic programs, and David Gilliam, Ph.D., OC assistant professor, have won prestigious awards. Last year, the team received the Gulf Guardian Award for their work surveying endangered reefs and fish species at the Veracruz Coral Reef System National Park in Mexico.

## RELATED RESEARCH

Although coral reefs are an OC specialty, there are related research activities at the center.

Genetics and conservation biology professor Mahmood Shivji, Ph.D., a research heavyweight in the shark and billfish worlds, has made several pioneering discoveries in the past decade.

As director of the OC’s Guy Harvey Research Institute (GHRI), Shivji led an international research team in 2007 that showed for the first time that female sharks can reproduce without mating with a male. This is done through a type of asexual reproduction called parthenogenesis. GHRI is dedicated to conducting the research required for conservation and proper management of the world’s wild fishes.

“This discovery completely rewrites the textbook on how sharks can reproduce,” Shivji said. Shivji has also co-led a research team that discovered a new species of billfish that looks like the white marlin. This finding means that many white marlin have been misidentified for decades, casting doubt on previous scientific information about the over-fished species. The discovery could have a major impact on commercial fishing, which has reduced white marlin populations.

Using DNA methods, Shivji and his students also traced hammerhead shark fins from the Hong



Kong markets, where the fins are prized delicacies used in soup, to their geographic origins in the western Atlantic Ocean, where the sharks are endangered. This discovery will better help conserve and manage the species.

In addition, Shivji, who also directs the OC’s new Save Our Seas Shark Center, which is dedicated to shark research and conservation, has invented a DNA test that can determine what species of shark a fin came from in a matter of hours. Last year, the U.S. Department of Justice used his test to successfully prosecute a Florida man who participated in dealing illegal shark fins.

Shivji’s efforts have impressed America’s most famous museum: The Smithsonian Institution. The institution is now displaying his work at The Sant Ocean Hall inside the Smithsonian’s Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C.

“It’s humbling to have our research make a difference and be recognized by such a prestigious museum,” Shivji said.

His colleague, OC associate professor Edward O. Keith, Ph.D., is using his research skills to study manatees being struck by boats and the causes of whale and dolphin beach strandings in the Southeast region. His goal is to reduce the number of deaths involving these gentle giants by discovering the causes.

Keith is being assisted by his graduate students. OC students are helping just about every OC researcher. This promotes learning in the classrooms, knowledge application in the field, and laboratory work and analysis.

“Anybody can dive on a reef, look at the coral, and say that coral isn’t doing very well,” said OC student Abby Renegar, who is working on her doctorate in marine biology. “But why isn’t that coral doing very well? I’m doing my part to find out why the reefs here are damaged and what it will take to fix them.”

That’s what separates OC students, faculty members, and scientists from everyone else—they don’t just ask questions, they find answers. ■

FREELANCE WRITER TIM COLLIE CONTRIBUTED TO THIS ARTICLE.

# Revealing

BY ALAN HANCOCK

## Nova Southeastern University and the “ah-ha” factor

When first-time visitors to NSU’s main campus enter a building erected in the past decade, the reaction is often “Ah-ha.” And there’s a reason for that.

“It’s a Frank Lloyd Wright trick,” explains Kona Gray, ASLA, an associate principal with the design firm EDSA, which has served as NSU’s campus master plan architects since 1992. “The design allows you to enter a low space, and then opens in to the ‘ah-ha’ space.”

It can be seen in the Alvin Sherman Library, where the entrance leads into an atrium that takes in all five stories. It’s in the Carl DeSantis Building, where a walk through the Entrepreneur Hall of Fame leads into an atrium that rises to the skylights above. And it’s in the Don Taft University Center, where entrances lead into a skylight-filled facility that contains the largest mural created by marine artist and scientist Guy Harvey.

NSU, under Chancellor Ray Ferrero, Jr., worked with EDSA and various architects in adding two million square feet of buildings on campus in the last 10 years, creating an architectural style called “collegiate modern.” To display a consistent style on the exterior of buildings, similar materials and colors were used—pre-cast concrete in tones of beige and other warm hues. Landscaping connects the buildings, as royal palm trees line many roads and walkways, while date palm trees stand outside buildings’ entrances.

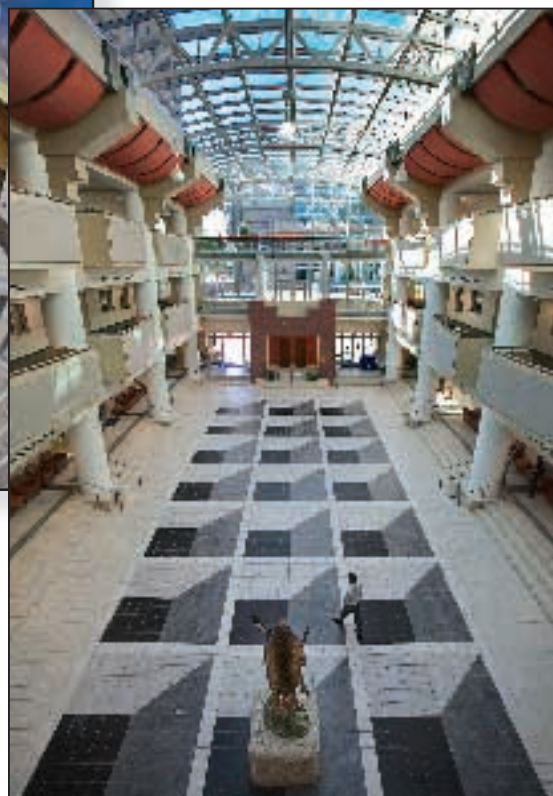
The architecture and design has gained notice. In 2008, *Forbes*

magazine featured the Don Taft University Center in a story on university buildings that combine style and function, and NSU was included in the magazine’s gallery of luxurious college campuses. EDSA’s campus master plan won an award in 2009 from the Florida chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects, and the Don Taft University Center and The Commons Residence Halls recently won individual awards for construction and design. ■



(Top) The Don Taft University Center entrance, shown bathed in light, features the largest mural ever created by Guy Harvey.

(Right) The amazing visual impact you get in the Carl DeSantis Building’s atrium showcases NSU’s “collegiate modern” style.





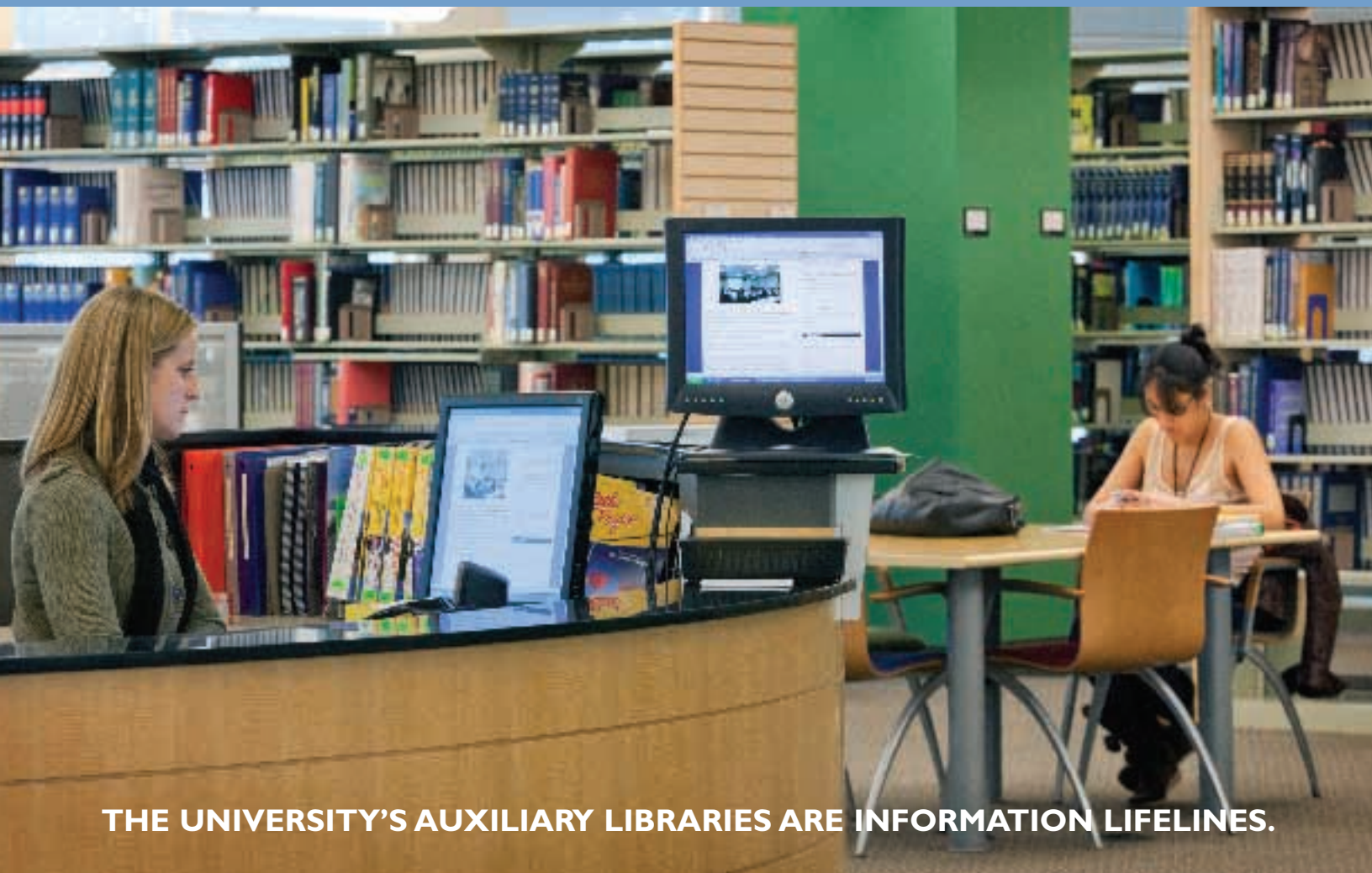
# Spaces

A wide-angle, low-perspective shot of a modern, multi-story atrium. The space is characterized by a large, curved staircase in the foreground, with a man in a blue shirt walking up and a woman in a white shirt walking down. The atrium features a grid of large windows on the upper floors, and the walls are a light, neutral color. The lighting is warm and ambient, highlighting the architectural details.

*The breathtaking five stories of the Alvin Sherman Library's atrium are showcased.*



# BEYOND THE BOOKSHELVES:



**THE UNIVERSITY'S AUXILIARY LIBRARIES ARE INFORMATION LIFELINES.**

BY JULIE LEVIN

The Alvin Sherman Library, Research, and Information Technology Center is NSU's main library, but the network of auxiliary libraries is also an invaluable resource for faculty members, students, and the local community. The Health Professions Division Library, the Shepard Broad Law Center Library and Technology Center, and the William S. Richardson Ocean Sciences Library each provide subject-specific research materials and a unique learning environment.



## THE HEALTH PROFESSIONS DIVISION LIBRARY

### Location

- Floor 1, Terry Building Complex, 3200 South University Drive, Davie, Florida
- 90,000 square feet
- opened in 1996

### Who It Serves

- Health Professions Division (HPD) students and faculty members on campus
- distance learning students
- students at student educational centers around the state

### Hours

- Monday–Thursday: 7:30 a.m.–midnight
- Friday: 7:30 a.m.–9:00 p.m.
- Saturday and Sunday: 10:00 a.m.–midnight

### What It Has

- more than 50 health professions databases, 300 online textbooks, and 29,000 books in print
- access to 3,500 electronic journal subscriptions
- a strong collection of multimedia resources, references, and encyclopedic materials
- 48 study rooms, copy machines, a computer lab, a small teaching lab available for group instruction, laptop computers, white noise machines, a massage chair, and ear plugs
- more than 650 articles and 6 books written by HPD faculty members

### What You Won't Find Here

- consumer health resources, general reference, general information, and fiction books

### Number of Users

- an average of 1,500–2,000 people daily

### Why Students Use This Library

- “I feel a bit more at home with trained librarians who help us out and understand the pressures we face every day,” said Daven Sawh, third-year pharmacy student.

### Most Common Request

- students requesting one of 48 available private study rooms

### Most Unusual Request

- students bringing pillows and blankets, hoping to use the study rooms all day and asking if they can have pizzas delivered to the circulation desk

### Number of Librarians

- five, including three new reference librarians who are creating an Information Commons for students and faculty members

### What Else Is Here

- osteopathic books from the 1890s and old dental and optometry books



## THE SHEPARD BROAD LAW CENTER LIBRARY AND TECHNOLOGY CENTER

### Location

- housed on three floors of the Shepard Broad Law Center
- 42,500 square feet
- opened in 1992

### Who It Serves

- Law Center students and faculty and staff members researching, studying, congregating, learning, and accessing technology in legal studies

### Hours

- Monday–Thursday: 8:00 a.m.–midnight
- Friday: 8:00 a.m.–10:00 p.m.
- Saturday: 9:00 a.m.–9:00 p.m.
- Sunday: 10:00 a.m.–midnight

### What It Has

- 344,110 law-related books or book equivalents, including 145,341 volumes on microform
- 180,848 titles, including many multivolume works
- 21,818 electronic books
- 3,052 media titles, including DVDs and CDs
- subscriptions to more than 5,000 law-related databases
- all books and academic articles written by Law Center faculty members

### What You Won't Find Here

- anything not law related

### Number of Users

- an average of 1,000 people daily

### Why Students Use This Library

- “The library staffers not only serve as an invaluable academic resource, but they also provide an animated dose of reality and perspective. I would have been lost, not just among the federal digests, but often in my own misery, if not for their collective charm, wit, and occasional nudge in the right direction,” said Tara Campion, second-year law student.

### Most Common Request

- Earplugs—The library hands out an estimated 20,000 ear plugs each year to help block out noise.

### Most Unusual Request

- “Nothing fazes us,” said Carol Yecies, associate director for information services and administration. But she does remember a student using the library while on rollerblades.

### Number of Librarians

- eight full-time and two part-time librarians

### What Else Is Here

- posters, photos, and drawings of various U.S. Supreme Court Justices, a few Honore Daumier prints with a legal theme, and a collection of M.C. Escher prints



## THE WILLIAM S. RICHARDSON OCEAN SCIENCES LIBRARY

### Location

- NSU's Oceanographic Center (the OC): 8000 North Ocean Drive, north end of John U. Lloyd State Park, Dania Beach, Florida
- on a 10-acre site on the ocean side of Port Everglades

### Who It Serves

- primarily faculty members and students pursuing one of the degrees offered by the OC

### Hours

- 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

### What It Has

- the 100 top marine science journals
- 3,000 books on all aspects of oceanography, biology, and the marine environment
- DVDs and a substantial amount of “gray literature,” including unpublished reports, uncataloged items, and government reports
- two books written by the late professor Pijush Kundu
- the book *Coral Reefs of the USA*, edited by Bernhard M. Riegl, NSU professor, and Richard E. Dodge, Ph.D., professor, dean, and executive director of the OC

### What You Won't Find Here

- anything not related to research on marine biology or physical oceanography

### Size

- approximately the size of three classrooms

### History of the Library

- It opened in 1966 at its original location, aboard a houseboat moored at a 15th Street marina in Fort Lauderdale. In 1976, it was dedicated to and named after the original director of the OC, William Springer Richardson. He was lost at sea in January 1975, aboard the *R/V Gulf Stream*.

### Why Students Use This Library

- “Without it, you wouldn't be able to reference the other work done in the field and do a comparison of your work with other work. You really wouldn't be able to obtain this type of degree,” said Pat Quinn, who earned a Ph.D. in Oceanography/Marine Sciences.

### Most Common Request

- students needing help finding specific research materials on the shelves or items not readily available

### Most Unusual Request

- tracking down a request from Richard Dodge, dean of the OC, to find a little-known, 1970s report on runway dredging and how it affected reefs in Hawaii

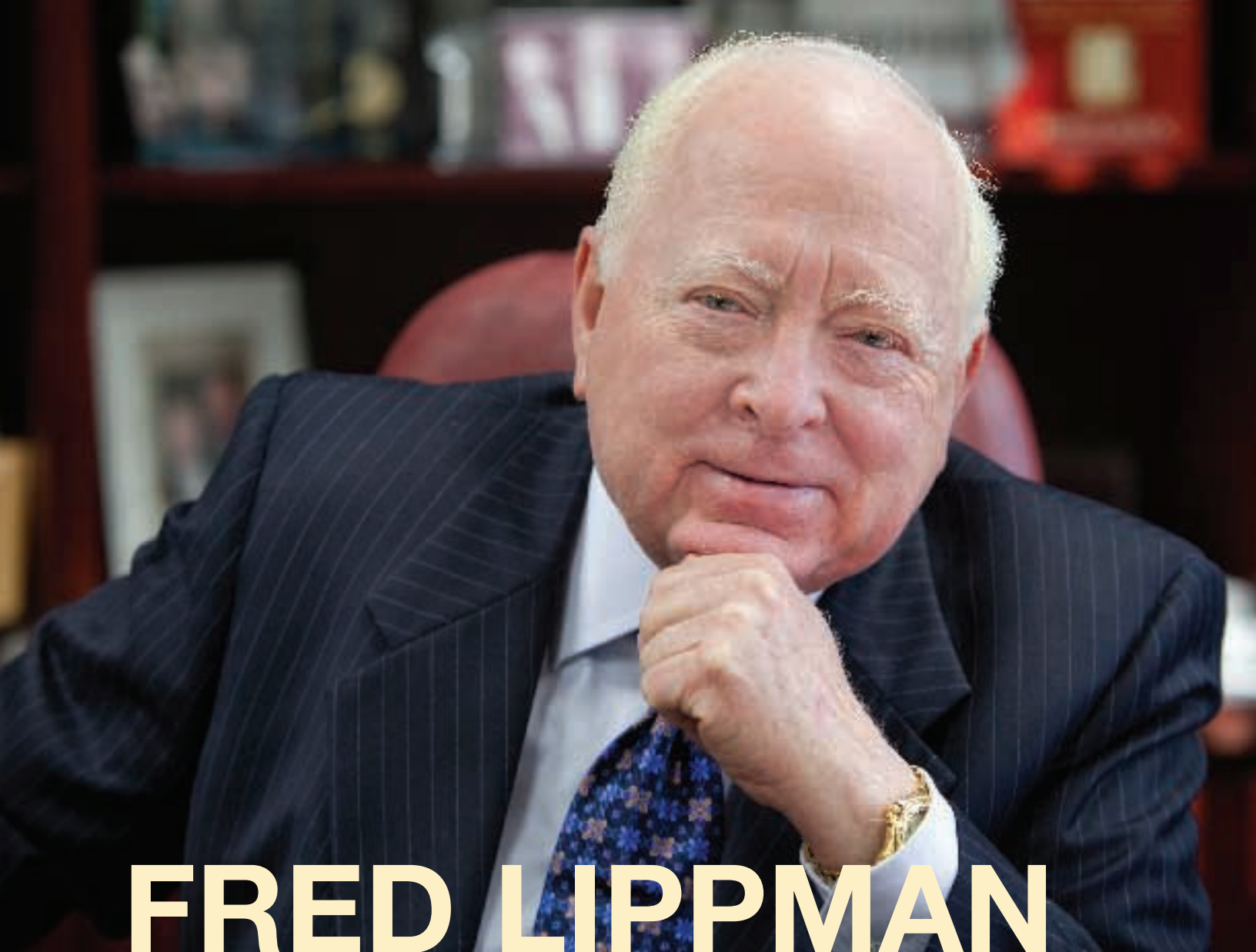
### Number of Librarians

- Kathleen Maxson has been the sole librarian since 1983.

### What Else Is Here

- a large bronze plaque honoring Richardson; displays of coral, shells, and a whale skull adjacent to the library





# FRED LIPPMAN

## **A passion for health care's future**

BY KEN MA

Fred Lippman is passionate about educating the men and women who will provide the most basic and essential service to mankind—health care.

# “To me, health care was never just a business.”

—Fred Lippman

**Y**ou can hear the passion in his voice, you can see it in his eyes, and you can read about it on the many plaques that line his office walls. As the chancellor of Nova Southeastern University's Health Professions Division (NSU-HPD), Fred Lippman, R.Ph., Ed.D., has used his fire to build one of the finest academic programs for future health care providers.

“One of the most important things we can provide our citizens with is quality holistic health care,” Lippman said. “As an educator and administrator, my job is to make sure the next generation of doctors, pharmacists, dentists, optometrists, and other health care professionals receive the best training anywhere. Our students will have a burdensome responsibility to society once they leave NSU.”

Piloting one of the most prestigious academic divisions at NSU, Lippman helped foster the exponential growth of HPD's six colleges—osteopathic medicine, pharmacy, optometry, dental medicine, allied health and nursing, and medical sciences. The division has more than 6,000 students and 1,300 faculty and staff members.

Lippman's sturdy guidance has also led to the creation of nursing and anesthesiologist assistant programs; expansion of physician assistant programs at NSU's Student Educational Centers throughout Florida; growth of the medical school to become the 11th largest in the nation; and continued excellence of one of the nation's top dental schools.

“Dr. Lippman provides much needed stability and direction to the faculty and staff within HPD,” said Patrick Hardigan, Ph.D., head of research at the Health Professions Division. “He embraces a leadership and management style that empowers people to do their jobs. Most critically, he has effective communications skills, which emphasize listening and collaboration.”

For all his accomplishments, and the fact that he is the boss, Lippman is an

affable and accessible leader. You might see the well-dressed chancellor with soft-white hair and an easy smile in a hallway of an HPD research lab. You might spot him sitting in a classroom at the College of Dental Medicine. If you do, introduce yourself, ask a question, and soak in the man's limitless knowledge and advice, which is offered with occasional humor.

“I'm a people person,” Lippman said. “You can't sit up in the ivory tower and understand people. You have to go onto campus and into the labs and hallways to communicate with students and professors.”

## THE PEOPLE'S PHARMACIST

Lippman learned the value of interpersonal skills at an early age. Born in Brooklyn, New York, during the Great Depression era, Lippman grew up in a multicultural community that was rich in history and full of colorful characters. This helped shape his skill at establishing relationships with people at the grassroots level.

After high school, he went on to earn his Bachelor of Science from Columbia University, as well as being a vital coxswain on the university's rowing team. He went on to Columbia's College of Pharmacy, earning a pharmacy degree.

Several years later, in 1960, Lippman left the hustle and bustle of New York City for South Florida. He took an immediate liking to the young region and found kindred spirits among the locals. They became his customers when Lippman started his own pharmacy in Hollywood, which eventually expanded to four other locations in Broward County.

“I started as a community pharmacist in the days when your local pharmacist was someone who communicated regularly with his neighbors and customers,” Lippman said. “To me, health care was never just a business.”

Not only did Lippman have strong relationships with his pharmacy customers,

he also made sure they were getting safe prescriptions and good directions, said A. Alvin Greber, D.O., HPD's executive dean for professional affairs, who has known Lippman for decades.

"He was the first pharmacist in the region to keep detailed patient profiles, handwritten prior to the availability of computers, to make sure that his patients received the right medications with the correct instructions," Greber said.

Through his pharmacy establishments, Lippman met lifelong friends who would influence his career for decades. As a local businessman, Lippman was asked to join the Chamber of Commerce, the Safe Street Committee, and the Better Business Bureau, among other organizations.

"You get to participate, and you do because you want to be part of the community," Lippman said. "You want to make a place your home. And then you want to make it better."



Fred Lippman; Governor Bob Graham; Ed Jaffry, attorney for the Florida Pharmacy Association; and Rep. Everett Kelly, during the mid-1980s

## OFF TO TALLAHASSEE

His penchant for community service eventually led him into public office. In 1978, Lippman was elected to serve as a state representative for Hollywood and parts of Hallandale Beach and Pembroke Pines.

He would spend more than two decades in Tallahassee, where he developed a reputation for championing legislation to support Florida's most vulnerable citizens. Lippman fought to protect children and senior citizens and to improve Florida's health care systems. His major legislative accomplishments included helping pass one of the nation's first laws to mandate the use of child restraints and seat belts in vehicles, as well as establishing a trauma care system in Florida.

"He was very receptive to hearing from people on the front lines of the issues," said State Senator Nan Rich (D-Weston), who met Lippman when he

was a state legislator. "It was a pleasure to work with a legislator who had such a genuine regard for the people he served."

For his efforts, Lippman received numerous accolades including the Youth Law Center Distinguished Achievement Award, the Public Service Award from the U.S. Department of Transportation, and the Florida Pediatric Society's Outstanding Legislator and Advocate for Children award, just to name a few.

## HEALTH PROFESSIONS

Awards are nice, but they were always far from Lippman's main focus. His real desire was to become an educator, which led to his acceptance of an academic post with the fledgling Southeastern University of the Health Sciences in North Miami Beach in the mid-1980s. He was the school's vice president for external affairs and professor of community medicine, as well as the first administrative officer in the creation of the College of Pharmacy.

In 1994, Lippman was asked by the late Morton Terry, D.O., who was then president of Southeastern, to join a team that negotiated the merger of Southeastern and Nova University, creating Nova Southeastern University (NSU).

NSU Chancellor Ray Ferrero, Jr., who was a member of Nova's Board of Trustees back then, worked with Lippman and Terry on the merger.

"As a businessman, he [Lippman] gained managerial skills to get things done in the marketplace," Ferrero said. "As a politician, he had an ability to listen and analyze, build consensus, and take action."

A decade later, Ferrero, who was then president of NSU, approached Lippman. He asked his longtime colleague to take on the responsibility of becoming chancellor of the Health Professions Division following Terry's death. As the founding HPD chancellor, Terry had mentored Lippman.

"He [Terry] was and still is an inspiration for me," said Lippman, who was HPD's executive vice chancellor and provost at the time of his promotion.

The new HPD chancellor took Terry's legacy of continuous improvement and worked collaboratively with the health professions deans to expand HPD's programs, research, and reputation. He did all those things while earning an Ed.D. from NSU's Fischler School of Education and Human Services.

## NEW PROGRAMS

The Nursing Program was one of the first that Lippman (along with Richard E. Davis, dean of the College of Allied Health and Nursing) helped create in 2003 and later expanded.

What began with an inaugural class of 45 students completing their R.N. (Registered Nurse) to B.S.N. (Bachelor of Science in Nursing) degrees has mushroomed into more than 700 students in a department





that now offers bachelor's, master's, and doctoral programs, both in the classroom and online.

"It's Dr. Lippman's insight and vision that led to establishment and growth of the nursing program," Davis said. "He was also at the forefront in recognizing the need for the creation of online and live programs for working health care professionals."

The program's meteoric rise and success attracted benefactors such as Baptist Health South Florida. The hospital annually offers 80 scholarships for entry-level nursing students at NSU. In exchange, recipients agree to work at one of Baptist's three hospitals after graduation.

Nursing's homerun was followed by an encore: the creation of America's fourth Anesthesiologist Assistant Program in 2006. In 2008, 29 students became the first graduating class in the program, which is now offered at NSU's main campus and the Tampa Student Educational Center.

NSU is the only university in Florida to offer an Anesthesiologist Assistant Program. Florida is one of 22 states that allow anesthesiologist assistants to ply their trade.

"Increasing the number of anesthesiologist assistants will open up more access for patients to have surgery," said NSU program director and professor Robert Wagner, M.M.Sc., AA-C.

Lippman and Davis also teamed up recently to expand the College of Allied Health and Nursing's Physician Assistant Program to student educational centers in Orlando, Jacksonville, and Fort Myers.

#### OTHER GROWTH

Beyond the classroom, Lippman was instrumental in creating a multimillion-dollar research program at HPD during a time when NSU's health-oriented

research was in its infancy compared to the University of Miami and University of Florida. "He has been the most vital cog in developing and stimulating research at HPD," Greber said.

Under his watch, cancer research grew significantly at NSU's Rumbaugh-Goodwin Institute for Cancer Research. The institute's executive director, Appu Rathinavelu, Ph.D., and his team are developing state-of-the-art medications to treat breast, lung, colorectal, and pancreatic cancers.

Meanwhile, endodontics professor Peter Murray, Ph.D., and his colleagues are cloning new teeth using adult stem cells harvested from existing teeth. The researchers have secured \$1.7 million in grants from the National Institutes of Health for their dental stem cell research.

"Research is essential to a university's success," Lippman said.

In addition to research, the College of Osteopathic Medicine has increased its medical missions to the Caribbean and South America to provide health care to impoverished communities. Also, the colleges of dental medicine and optometry have opened more community clinics to help people who don't have regular access to care, and the College of Pharmacy is now offering classes in West Palm Beach and Puerto Rico.

So what's next?

Well, the sky is the limit for someone with as many boundless new ideas and as much passion as Fred Lippman.

"At a time when education and health care are the only sectors of the economy that are adding jobs, Fred [Lippman] is in the perfect place to ensure that Nova Southeastern is positioned to help South Florida meet the growing demand for health professions," Rich said. ■

FREELANCE WRITER JONATHON KING CONTRIBUTED TO THIS ARTICLE.

## Jayden Carr

BY MICHELLE SOLOMON

### **“MSI gave us our child back.”**

When Jayden Carr turned six on February 27, he had chalked up multiple hospital stays, hundreds of hours of rehabilitation and physical therapy, and countless days working with speech and behavioral therapists. Yet, anyone who comes in contact with him says just about the same thing: Jayden Carr has the determination of an Olympic athlete.



It was a little more than three years ago when the then-two-year-old from Hollywood, Florida, was in a car being driven by his grandmother, Pamela Carr. It was a sunny afternoon on September 12, 2006. A woman with a history of drunken driving on her police record sped through a four-way stop, smashing into the back seat door where Jayden was sitting.

Call it mother's intuition, but Amy Bobotis-Carr had a hunch something was wrong. She vividly remembers the day that her life and that of her family's was forever changed.

"I knew that day when I kissed him goodbye that it could be the last goodbye," Bobotis-Carr recalled. "At the exact time of the accident, around

3:15 p.m., I started to get nervous. I was pacing."

Jayden and his grandmother usually arrived home between 3:15 and 3:30, so there was no tardiness, just a mother's gut feeling about her child.

"‘Something is not right,’ I said to myself, so I went looking," she said. Not far from the family home, she saw her mother-in-law's car, smashed and pushed onto the lawn of a home. "Police told me they had never seen anything like it. You don't expect to see seasoned policemen with tears in their eyes."

### **“A painful nightmare”**

The following weeks were a "painful nightmare," said Bobotis-Carr, as she and her husband, Randy, knew they had to accept what had happened. Jayden had suffered severe traumatic brain injury. They had to move on and do the best for their child.

Jayden needed more specialized help. He now had attention deficits and behavioral issues as a result of his injuries. "His brain was so scrambled," recalled his mother.

"Jayden's brain injury was very significant and impacted the way he processed information, as well as his physical development," said Roni Leiderman, Ph.D., dean of the Mailman Segal Institute for Early Childhood

Studies at Nova Southeastern University.

"I remember the call that I got from Amy. She asked what I thought about her son coming to the Mailman Segal Institute for preschool."

After evaluating Jayden, Leiderman and the Carrs agreed that it would be beneficial for him to participate in MSI's Family Center Preschool. The Family Center Preschool and Infant and Toddler Programs utilize both traditional and innovative teaching methods, honoring child-centered educational paradigms, using its 5-C curriculum framework developed by the professional staff members at MSI. (The 5-C curriculum is communication, critical thinking, concept development, creativity, and cooperation.)





Roni Leiderman, left, with Amy Bobotis-Carr and Jayden.

“Jayden was mainstreamed into our program with the understanding that he needed additional therapeutic support and intervention,” says Leiderman.

“There would not have been a better, safer environment for him to be in,” said Bobotis-Carr. “MSI was his foundation to starting over again.”

Before MSI, the family had already enlisted a number of specialists. “I had visited their home, observed Jayden receiving therapy, and discussed the intensive scheduling of therapeutic support for him. We worked closely with their therapists and layered it with our support in our program,” said Leiderman.

Jayden’s teachers at the Family Center Preschool, Nancy Meyers and Kim Boggs, were the “frontline people,” Leiderman explained, “and made a critical difference in the positive outcomes for Jayden. There was always an open dialogue with the family, and we were responsive to their needs, suggestions, and feedback.”

By the time Jayden came to prekindergarten, he had already benefited from his home care and the year he had spent in the three-year-old program at MSI. There were still hurdles, and he would get frustrated by his limitations, Meyers remembered. Through his experiences in the Family Center Preschool, he made significant and ongoing progress. Those working with him saw him becoming more social and his self-esteem soared. His motor developments improved greatly; he made friends, learned to read, and excelled in many areas.

## Making leaps and bounds

Jayden’s doctors, teachers, therapists, and parents believe that his willingness to overcome his challenges also made the difference. “He was never discouraged in any way, and he made leaps and bounds in the year I had him in my classroom,” said Boggs. “From the first day I met him, I could see his determination.”

While Jayden learned, a reciprocal education was taking place for faculty members and students.

At MSI’s core is the opportunity to present hands-on learning experiences to NSU students studying early childhood, speech/language therapy, physical therapy, occupational therapy, and applied behavior analysis. NSU graduate students from various fields also participate in, and learn from, the unique professional setting.

“We take our job very seriously, and we always acknowledge that, for every parent, the most important thing in the world is their child. We got to be part of Jayden’s journey and that was quite amazing,” said Leiderman.

Jayden, now in prekindergarten at NSU’s University School, was selected to receive a Distinguished Alumni Award during NSU’s 2009 Celebration of Excellence. In the past, MSI has honored teachers, community partners, and alumni, but never such a recent graduate.

While Jayden still has a long road ahead of him, Bobotis-Carr continues to celebrate her “second family,” the support team of faculty and staff members at MSI during Jayden’s two years there. She said that was the most invaluable gift anyone could give to the Carr family, which also includes brother, J.C., who is 7. “Everyone at MSI gave us their expertise, their guidance, and their hearts to help Jayden. We are truly grateful to MSI for giving us our child back.” ■

## About MSI

The Mailman Segal Institute for Early Childhood Studies (MSI) is located in the Jim & Jan Moran Family Center Village at Nova Southeastern University.

MSI’s renowned and accredited Parenting Place, Baudhuin Preschool, and Family Center Preschool and Infant and Toddler Programs are available for children ages six weeks to five years of age and their families.

The institute’s teachers and multidisciplinary child study teams—including occupational, speech, family, and behavior therapists; psychologists; and educators—identify and support all children, including those who have special needs or learning or behavior challenges.

For more information, visit [www.nova.edu/msi/index.html](http://www.nova.edu/msi/index.html).

## Diversity Has a New Advocate

BY JODI NODING

Shamin Ladhani knew she'd get the education she wanted at Nova Southeastern University. But, she didn't know her years there would transform her into a leader.

"I could have been a wallflower student," said Ladhani, who earned a Psy.D. at NSU's Center for Psychological Studies (CPS) in 2005. "But, I had faculty members who provided me with opportunities."

One of her NSU mentors was John Lewis, director of academic affairs at CPS. "He told us during our first year it was essential that we be members of the American Psychological Association (APA)." And not just be passive members, but get involved. He also encouraged Ladhani to meet Joseph White, one of the first African American psychologists, who was speaking at an APA convention.

Buoyed by Lewis' encouragement, Ladhani struck up a conversation with White. "It led to a mentoring relationship. I got more comfortable with my voice and started to get involved in leadership roles," she said.

Those included being secretary and president of the Ethnic Minority Association of Graduate Students and organizer of a convention with White as a speaker. Under her leadership, the association won NSU's coveted STUEY award, which honors the university's best in scholarship, leadership, involvement, service, commitment, integrity, and responsibility. Ladhani was also elected student representative of the APA's Division 45, Society for the Psychological Study of Ethnic Minority Issues.

Ladhani has seen firsthand the psychological issues that can develop in refugee and immigrant populations. Her father is South Asian and fled to Uganda as a young adult. "I was always fascinated by medical issues, diversity, and the intersection of medical and psychological health," she said. "NSU has a program that looks at that, and it was perfect for me." Her directed study looked at the generational differences in immigrants and their children and the unique issues each group faces.

Karen Grosby, M.Ed., CPS dean, said there is increasing demand for psychologists who understand diversity issues. "Psychologists need the skill-set to be effective with people from different cultures and backgrounds. In the United States, it's going to be critical for the immigrant population to transition well and be able to join the workforce. So, we are interested in research in these areas."



Today, Ladhani is working with people from diverse backgrounds as a pain psychologist at the nonprofit Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare—All Saints Hospital in Wisconsin. She juggles several responsibilities, including providing individual and group therapy and working with nursing home patients.

She's putting her CPS studies to good use by directing the hospital's diversity committee, which provides community outreach and education. She aims to build the staff's "cultural competence" by bringing diversity to the hospital's leadership and professional roles. "It's about developing new services," she said, asking herself, "Are we connecting with the community? Do people know what they need to know? We want to know our community so we can cater to them." ■



## Celebrity Lawyer First Apprenticed at NSU

BY CHARLYNE VARKONYI SCHAUB

**Bradford Cohen** was just another South Florida criminal lawyer until five years ago when he appeared on *The Apprentice* and Donald Trump fired him.

Cohen's firing stuck in the memory banks of viewers because it was so shocking. Although he did an admirable job, he was booted because Trump said he was "stupid" to give up the immunity earned as the leader of the winning team.

Since then, Cohen, a 1997 graduate from NSU's Shepard Broad Law Center, has become one of the celebrity lawyers asked to weigh in on legal issues for TV programs including *Nancy Grace*, *Dr. Phil*, and the *Today* show, and on CNBC. He was also one of the producers of the independent film *Red*, which had its South Florida premiere at NSU last fall. The 43-minute short stars Nick Warnock, another *Apprentice* cast member.

Those who knew Cohen in law school, such as adjunct professor Charles Morton, aren't surprised that the 38-year-old Fort Lauderdale lawyer has made a name for himself in law and entertainment. "You could see Brad had the potential to be an excellent trial lawyer," Morton said. "His personality was outgoing. He was easy to talk to, communicated well, and was a natural born entertainer. You can tell from his passion and emotion that he takes what he does seriously and wants to do it well."

"I have never been short on confidence," Cohen said, sitting behind his office desk.

Cohen credits the Law Center and Morton, who is also the chief assistant state attorney for Broward County, with contributing to his success. Professors such as Morton helped him perfect his courtroom persona. Graduating from the Law Center was also a great networking tool, he said, because many Broward County judges are also NSU graduates.



Morton was significant because he encouraged him not to change his style. During a moot court oral argument, law student Cohen held back on his personality because some people told him his style was too aggressive.

"I will never forget [Morton's] advice," Cohen said. "He told me that not every lawyer is going to be the everyman. If you change your style, you will come across as phony, and the jury will know."

It's no surprise that Cohen, who has always been a movie buff, is now getting into film production. His office features collectibles including a Batman toy and a Darth

Vader mask. He met his film's leading man Warnock, who was on the first season of *The Apprentice*, at Hollywood parties, and they made appearances together.

Warnock introduced Cohen to filmmakers, directors, and screenwriters. After premiering at NSU, the film was shown in Los Angeles, London, and Hong Kong.

Scheduling TV appearances and creating publicity for the film became too much for Cohen with his law practice, so he teamed up with Vanessa Prieto, another Law Center graduate, who practices civil and commercial litigation, and established an in-house public relations firm, Molten Honey Public Relations, LLC.

Prieto, as president and lead publicist, researches potential clients and strategizes how to promote the project. Molten Honey serves a variety of clients, including celebrities, sports figures, professionals, actors, and writers. "There is a strong niche market for public relations, and the practice of law is no different; it's just an alternative forum," she said. "To be successful, both require excellent communication and people skills."

Cohen admits he is infected with the show-biz bug, but don't expect him to shutter his law practice anytime soon. "I love what I do," he said. "I can't see giving it up." ■

## Advancing International Business in a World of Uncertainty

BY CHAUNCEY MABE

At a time when many executives are happy just to hold onto their jobs, **Alejandro Palacios** is working his way up the international business ladder. As vice president for Strategy and GoGreen—part of DHL Global Forwarding Americas, the air and sea component of the largest transport company in the world—he’s responsible for looking beyond current status reports to show his company the pathway to the future.

Sitting in his spartan office at the DHL Americas headquarters in Plantation, Florida, he explains why he’s pursuing a Doctor of Business Administration degree in International Business at Nova Southeastern University, even though he’s already a successful executive.

“In my line of work, you need everything a doctorate gives you access to,” said Palacios, who, as the son of a diplomat, grew up in Ecuador, Israel, and France. “If you’re not aware of the latest trends, then what kind of strategies are you developing? You’re a follower, not a leader.”

Palacios spent much of 2009 devising a five-year strategic plan and guiding the company’s drive to reduce its carbon footprint. That means everything from changing to more efficient light bulbs to offering “green” shipping alternatives to customers. It’s a lot of responsibility, but Palacios loves his work. “It’s especially fun because I get to do all these different things,” he said.

Palacios didn’t set out for a career in the transportation industry. After earning degrees in business and psychology in Ecuadorian and Mexican schools, he worked for Pronaca, Ecuador’s largest business group, until he realized he needed a multinational corporation on his resume to get into a good business school in the United States. DHL not only gave him the experience he sought, but also transferred him to its U.S. regional headquarters so he could work and study at the same time.

That’s how Palacios came to earn a Master of International Business Administration (M.I.B.A.) degree at the H. Wayne Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship, graduating in 2003. NSU, he said, provides first-rate professors and resources in a true international program, and it provides the weekend classes and online services required for working professionals.

“I’ve done a lot of recruiting in the past 10 years—students from top schools,” Palacios said.



“And I can tell you the quality of education I’ve gotten here is second to none.”

Palacios’ M.I.B.A. degree program covered international topics with studies designed for global managers and entrepreneurs. His D.B.A. focuses on advanced decision-making skills, in-depth knowledge of research, and strong leadership development, with a concentration in international business that’s relevant for global managers.

Ruth Clarke, Ph.D., chair for international business at the Huizenga School, said NSU is a great fit for professionals like Palacios. “For students already working for multinational companies, the focus is always on being entrepreneurial,” she said, “being able to develop new initiatives and handle change in a fast-paced, global arena.”

After five years of study, Palacios is less than a year away from receiving his D.B.A. In January, he received the Huizenga School’s 2009 Distinguished Alumni Award at NSU’s annual Celebration of Excellence.

Palacio says his NSU education will pay off for the rest of his life. “I saw they were investing in the school in a way that made it a very good, long-term investment for me,” Palacios said. “My diploma and my degree are going to be worth much more in 10, 20, or 30 years than they are now. You can’t say that about every school.” ■



## Multiple Choice: Giving Parents and Their Children Educational Options

BY JULIE KAY

Ebony Jackson didn't know what to do when her teenage daughter, Tamaya, began having problems at her public high school in Miami. Struggling with adolescence, Tamaya bounced from the gifted program to the honors program to regular classes, rubbing several teachers the wrong way in the process. "She didn't have the best reputation," said Jackson.



Then, Jackson heard about Nova Southeastern University's Florida School Choice Program in North Miami Beach. There, she learned about alternative school options for her daughter, including magnet schools, charter schools, and homeschooling.

Jackson wound up placing her daughter in a small charter school. Tamaya graduated last year in the top 10 percent of her class and is now excelling at junior college. "Because of the small environment, everyone knew Tamaya and me," Jackson said. "We formed more of a bond with the teachers and the principal."

Some might wonder why NSU, a private university, has taken the job of educating parents about kindergarten through grade 12 options upon itself.

**Judith Stein**, Ed.D., executive director of the National Institute for Education Options, oversees the program at the Fischler School of Education and Human Services. In 1995, after 21 years in the Miami-Dade School System, she opted for early retirement. After two years of traveling with her husband, she took a temporary job at NSU in the

newly formed National Institute for Educational Options. A year later, she took over as director and has been there ever since.

Stein started working with all school choices and soon realized that there needed to be a better way to inform parents of their options. She set out hiring a bilingual, diverse group of employees to reach out to South Florida's diverse community, emphasizing that parents "don't just have to send their children to the neighborhood school."

To help even more people, particularly in disadvantaged areas, the institute opened 14 parent resource centers in South Florida, and NSU partnered with community organizations.

"Light bulbs went on, and we realized we needed to go to places in the community where the parents have trust," she said.

The program really took off when the institute obtained a grant in 2002 from the U.S. Department of Education through the Florida Department of Education. The initial, five-year grant of \$200,000 per year enabled NSU to hire contract workers at South Florida's community centers; expand its staff; and do outreach, videos, brochures, and events. Florida State University received a companion grant for the same program in northern Florida.

At first, state officials seemed skeptical of awarding such a grant to a private university. Stein and her crew were summoned to Tallahassee to meet on the issue and peppered with questions by state officials. "They weren't used to private universities knowing all the rules and regulations," she said.

But, NSU won over state officials. In 2007, the government shut down FSU's program and gave NSU a \$5 million, five-year grant to expand the program throughout Florida. Now, NSU has parent resource centers in Jacksonville, Orlando, Tampa, West Palm Beach, Pensacola, Quincy, and throughout South Florida. The service also operates out of a host of community centers in Little Haiti, Liberty City, Opa-locka, Little Havana, and other minority neighborhoods. Stein now has a staff of 15 people.

Her mission extends to the oversight of NSU's master's and doctoral degree programs in charter school administration, the first offered in the country. These programs will teach administrators about managing charter schools, from selecting locations and marketing to furnishing the centers.

Is a second retirement on the horizon for Stein, now 70 and a self-proclaimed workaholic? "I love what I'm doing," she said. ■



*Clockwise from top left:  
LaShawna Edwards, Regina Sau,  
Chris Waggoner, Brandon Chase,  
and Jessica Villanueva*



***“Do what you want to do.  
Be what you want to be.”***



## Stars Are Born at NSU

BY RALPH DE LA CRUZ

As with most successful TV commercials, the first thing that grabs you with this one is the catchy jingle—up-tempo, suggesting it's offering something cutting edge. "Do what you want to do," a voice sings out. "Be what you want to be." It's accompanied by quick shots of energetic people and sleek buildings, evoking innovation and optimism.

In a world where lizards and cavemen hawk insurance, it could be easy to brush off this ad as just another slickly produced promotion filled with professional actors shilling for some mega corporation.

But, then you see Brandon Chase's face fill the screen and say, "I want to fight for justice." You hear Jessica Villanueva proclaim she wants to be "the teacher they remember." And you realize this isn't a contrived pitch. These are the voices and faces of real students, classmates, and friends. Suddenly, the panoramic shots of this dynamic university campus look familiar, because it's Nova Southeastern University.

"Even before the commercial, I felt a real connection to this university," said Chris Waggoner, 19, one of the NSU students featured in the promos. "Although it looks like a fairly big campus, classes are pretty small, and it seems like everyone knows one another."

Waggoner says as much in the commercial: "I want my professors to actually know my name." He is one of the few student-actors who doesn't specifically talk about his major. That's because he's actually living it, or working at it, in the ad. Waggoner is a theatre major. "It's probably the coolest thing I've done in a long time," he said.

It's cool even to those who are used to being in the glare of the bright lights.

LaShawna Edwards is one of the stars on the NSU women's basketball team. A charismatic guard and senior leader, she appeared in the commercial last year. "This year, they knew me, and I was more comfortable on the set," said Edwards, 21.

NSU gave the student-actors some suggested lines (such as Chase's "I want to fight for justice.") but also urged them to improvise some of their own lines.

"I hadn't had lunch that day, so I gave them, 'I am hungry,'" said Edwards, laughing. "I figured they could use the comic relief."

In the version that made it on air, she tells viewers, "I want to hear the crowd go wild" over video of her sinking a jump shot in the Shark Tank arena. The television spot's impact is not a joke for this Miami resident, who is nearing completion of a criminal justice degree.

"When I see the commercial on TV, it reminds me of how far I've come," she said. "It makes me proud."



Graduate student Regina Sau had never acted nor been in the athletic spotlight while growing up in Oakland, California. But, when she received an email from the College of Pharmacy about the auditions, she decided to give it a try.

"It was definitely harder than I thought," said Sau, 25. "They actually had me rehearse lines."

Harder, and probably more exasperating, than she could have imagined—particularly after her lines ended up on the cutting-room floor. But, she did land a nonspeaking role in the final commercial, showcasing NSU's graduate programs.

"A lot of people ask me, 'Didn't I see you on TV?'" she said.

"I've [also] had a lot of that," said Frederick Johansen, 29, who appeared in a spot showing off the H. Wayne Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship. "People who I haven't heard from in years have been contacting me. Not many people knew I was back in school."

Johansen, a graduate student in entrepreneurship, sees the benefits of the commercial differently than many of the student actors.

"I've learned that branding is important," Johansen said. "In these commercials, I'm not only developing my brand, but linking it to the NSU brand. That can only be a good thing."

After graduating from the University of Florida, Chase, 26, moved to Manhattan to pursue a career in acting, catching minor parts in commercials and a few small independent films. But no big breakthrough came.

Now a law student at NSU, he's gained major face time, and the first line, in the graduate school promo. "I still have a passion for acting," he said. "I love performing. I love being in front of the camera. And, I love representing this school." ■

*Pictured above: Frederick Johansen*

## Runner Shows Team the Fast Track to NCAA Championships

BY ALAN HANCOCK

Matt Meagher's top priority after graduating from college in Massachusetts was to find a physician assistant program where he could continue his studies. Second on his priority list was finding a school where he could take advantage of his final year of eligibility on the cross country team. To his surprise, Nova Southeastern University opened both doors for this multi-faceted student.

Meagher helped run the Sharks all the way to their first-ever appearance in the NCAA Division II Men's Cross Country Championships. He was the top finisher for the Sharks last fall when they placed a surprise third at the NCAA Division II South Region Championships, earning a berth to the national championships.

But, balancing running and his first year in a demanding academic program was a challenge. Meagher often wasn't able to practice with the team, had to train on his own, and he even missed some races early in the season due to the physician assistant program's schedule. Despite the obstacles, he earned a spot on the All-South Region team selected by the U.S. Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association after his sixth-place individual finish at the South Region meet.

Although the NCAA Championship appearance was a first for the Sharks, it was somewhat familiar to Meagher. He had run in the meet each of the previous three years as part of his alma mater's team, and that experience helped his new team at NSU.

"When Matt spoke, everyone listened to him," said Bryan Hagopian, who coaches NSU's men's and women's cross country teams and the track and field program. "The whole team had so much respect for him because he was a three-time national qualifier. His presence was really felt and made a big difference in us qualifying for nationals."

Meagher took pride in being able to guide and teach the young Sharks team. "I knew what it was like to run at a high level. To be able to bring that to this program was nice," said Meagher. "It felt good to show the younger runners something they hadn't seen before."

One of the younger runners who Meagher influenced was his brother, Kevin, a freshman on the cross country team last fall. Kevin, who ran on the cross country team at his high school in Massachusetts, learned about NSU from his brother. After making sure that Meagher wouldn't mind his little brother sharing the same college campus, Kevin, a criminal justice major, followed him to NSU. Soon, the brothers ran on a team together for the first time.

"I asked him for a lot of advice on how to train because I knew it was different coming to college where races are a longer distance," said Kevin, who is also competing for NSU in track this spring. "At meets,

we would always warm up together, and I would get advice from him."

And the advice helped. Despite competing at the college level for the first time, Kevin was the Sharks' second highest finisher at both the NCAA championships and the Sunshine State Conference championships.

Meagher, who was able to run for one season at NSU because he missed the cross country season his freshman year in Massachusetts due to an injury, has now completed his NCAA eligibility in both cross country and track. So it may be up to his brother Kevin to help carry the cross country team back to the national championships.

"Kevin has the character traits and skills just like his brother," said Hagopian. "He'll be a captain on our team this fall. He's just like his brother—a leader. With runners like that on the team, it makes the other runners step up their games, too." ■



Matt Meagher



## Newest Shark is Ready to Get Her Fins Wet

BY ALAN HANCOCK

When visiting NSU's main campus to interview for a position with the university's new swimming and diving program, Hollie Bonewit-Cron saw the \$7-million Aquatic Center and other facilities and was immediately blown away. Now, this new head coach is the one giving tours and selling top high school swimmers on a men's and women's program that will begin competition this fall.

"When I showed up on campus, I was stunned," Bonewit-Cron said of her initial visit. "I tried to look at the university through the eyes of a recruit. I saw the Don Taft University Center and then went over to the pool, and by that point, I was sold. I felt confident a successful swim program could be built here."

Bonewit-Cron is scouring the globe, recruiting swimmers from across the United States, Canada, Europe, and South America to build the initial swim teams, which will begin competing in the fall; divers will be added in 2011. Having coached at the University of Florida and the University of Miami, Bonewit-Cron feels she was given a head start on recruiting since she is familiar with the state's swim clubs.

But, now she has to convince swimmers to come to a university that has no history in the sport. To do that, Bonewit-Cron has stressed NSU's small class sizes and its academics, especially the Dual Admission Program. She also has praised the NSU Aquatics Center, which opened in 2008, where the Sharks swimming and diving teams will train and compete. The competition pool and dive well is the largest water-volume pool in Florida and can be set up for 50-meter, 25-meter, or 25-yard lap swimming.

There's also the chance for first-year swimmers to make NSU history.

"Not many people get the opportunity to be in that first class and start a tradition," said Tyler Wilson, a National Interscholastic Swim Coaches Association All-American at Fort Myers High School. Wilson and his twin sister, Courtney, will be on NSU's first swim team.

### A Coach Who Also Competed

Bonewit-Cron's previous success as a college coach—and as a competitor herself—has assured incoming swimmers that they will be in good hands. She was an All-American swimmer at Ohio University who competed in the Olympic trials. She spent six years at the University of Florida, from 2002 to 2008, as the assistant men's and women's swim coach. During her final season with the Gators, the women's squad finished sixth, and the men were eighth at the NCAA Division I Championships. Bonewit-Cron helped guide one



Hollie Bonewit-Cron

American and seven international male and female swimmers to the 2004 Olympic Games, where they earned one gold and one silver medal. She's also been a volunteer assistant coach at Miami and an assistant coach at Georgia Southern University, where she began her coaching career.

Bonewit-Cron has a plan in place to reach similar levels of success at NSU. She expects both men's and women's squads to field between 16 and 20 swimmers in the Sharks' first season of competition. With the first swim teams consisting primarily of freshmen straight from high school and some juniors transferring in, Bonewit-Cron wants to teach her young teams how to race on the college level.

"My goal is to make sure that our swimmers can race, that they are the ones fighting from start to finish to be the first ones on the wall," she said. "I want the dual meets to be a learning experience."

While the teams will still be in their infancy when they begin racing this October, Bonewit-Cron won't shield them from tough competition. She plans to schedule dual meets with several NCAA Division I teams, even though NSU competes in Division II. Exposing her teams to that level of competition in the first year will help strengthen her team for future years.

With NSU becoming the fifth school in the Sunshine State Conference with a swimming and diving program, the conference plans to add championships for swimming and diving. Bonewit-Cron already has her sights set on an SSC title and beyond.

"Within the first three years of our program, winning the conference is absolutely within the realm of possibilities," she said. After all, having some championship trophies to point out will only enhance the tours Bonewit-Cron gives to future classes of Sharks swimmers and divers. ■

# Junior Achievement

## YOUNGER STUDENTS GET A TASTE OF THE WORKPLACE

BY MICHAEL J. BERGBAUER

Welcome to Junior Achievement World—where more than 50,000 children in South Florida will get hands-on experiences with the challenges of adulthood and workforce responsibilities.

Fifth-grade students practice attending Nova Southeastern University and studying toward a specific career. Others want to be reporters for a day, putting out a newspaper on their day's activities, while still others choose to work at a hospital, manage a store, or be employed by a bank. Eighth graders receive a "salary" of up to \$60,000, from which they have to budget all their "living expenses" in life situations such as being "married with two children" or "single."

The Junior Achievement World Huizenga Center is the largest such facility in the world. This premier financial and employment children's education center has been made possible largely by donations from NSU Board of Trustees member H. Wayne Huizenga as well as a number of other private donations and corporate sponsors. Huizenga became involved after he and his wife, Marti, toured the Gus Stavros facility in St. Petersburg. Marti worked diligently with the school system at that time and pledged the first gift to replicate the programs here; later, after Junior Achievement (JA) acquired the rights to replicate the programs, the Huizengas pledged to support with the lead gift.

JA World, located on the Broward College campus in Coconut Creek, is broken into two areas: JA Biztown (for fifth graders) and JA Finance Park (for eighth graders). In both, small cities feature various storefronts where children "work," learning the ins and outs of free enterprise. As part of their curriculum, all fifth and eighth graders of Broward County public schools will visit JA World. The JA storefronts are sponsored by real local businesses to provide partial funding for JA's operations. NSU is supporting JA by sponsoring two storefronts.



At NSU's storefronts, students can learn about five careers—career counselor, bookstore manager, accounts officer, chief financial officer (CFO), and university president—in a mini-university student experience. Students take on the responsibilities of these careers to make the storefronts run smoothly. In addition, they participate in the Biztown community at large. For example, the CFO buys supplies from other storefronts to stimulate their businesses.

"Working at NSU was amazing and fun. The best part was learning to make checks," said Daniel Italico of Coconut Creek Elementary, who acted as CFO for NSU's storefront.

But, this experience goes beyond learning about a specific career. "The students learn that going to school is a life option that can make a difference in what their career choices may be," says Larry Calderon, vice president of community and government affairs at NSU.

According to Calderon, NSU's involvement with JA will expose thousands of students to the opportunities higher education offers. "NSU believes that the earlier students and their families see higher education as a viable option, the quicker they will decide to pursue a formal education," Calderon added.

"NSU has served as a vital part [of JA World] by showing kids that there is a next step with higher education," said Anna Parker, director of community and special events at JA World. "It allows them to do great things."

For more information on Junior Achievement of South Florida, visit <http://jasouthflorida.org>. ■







## Touching Lives

“When I think about Nova Southeastern University, I think about possibilities and support,” said Yulia Watters, a Ph.D. student in the Department of Family Therapy in the Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences. As part of her coursework, Watters is working as a clinician at the Douglas Gardens Hospice in the Miami Jewish Home and Hospital. “My work in hospice gives me an opportunity to create relationships on a daily basis. By building relationships with patients, I am hoping to make a difference in their lives.” Through her work, Watters experiences firsthand how one person can truly improve the daily lives of others.

Through your annual gift to NSU, you too can see how one person can impact the lives of others—like Yulia Watters, her NSU classmates, and the diverse communities they serve. Annual gifts support the colleges and programs that help our more than 29,000 students change the world.

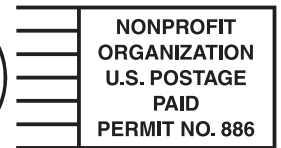
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